

*Oral Questions*

responsible for housing. I know that some of my department officials are part of the team which is looking into this.

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[English]

**HOUSING**

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE PURCHASERS OF HOUSES  
RECEIVING BENEFIT OF REDUCTION OF SALES TAX ON  
BUILDING MATERIALS

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** My question is for the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. May I ask him whether he is satisfied that the reductions in the sales tax are being passed on to the home buyers in Canada, and can he tell the House what procedures are adopted or will be adopted to put these monitoring procedures into effect?

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs):** The materials monitoring division of CMHC is checking this on a regular basis and reporting to me. There is an indication that the reductions are being passed on. It is hard to be precise. In at least one case the builder has actually returned the rebate cheque to the purchaser after the fact. In another case we have re-negotiated a contract for a limited dividend rental accommodation, and so the sales tax reduction was passed on. This is being watched on a continuing basis.

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**AGRICULTURE**

BEEF CATTLE—DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES  
CONCERNING RESUMPTION OF TRADE

**Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture. Can he inform the House as to what are the possibilities of removing both the export and import restrictions with regard to cattle which affect our trade with the United States?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I answered a similar question in the House yesterday and said that discussions are going on between the U.S. and Canada. I discussed the matter with the United States Secretary of Agriculture. I do not know what the consequences of the discussions will be, whether they will bear fruit or not.

**Mr. Elzinga:** In view of the fact that the restrictions which the minister imposed on the import of cattle from the United States some time ago caused the United States to react by imposing protective measures of their own that have been extremely damaging to the Canadian cattle industry, and in view of the fact that the minister himself has caused this dilemma, would he assure the House that he will do whatever is possible to have these regulations re-negotiated so that Canadian cattlemen can take advantage of the higher prices in U.S. markets?

**Mr. Whelan:** There is no truth to the statements made by the hon. member. As the result of actions we have taken, nearly \$100 million has flowed to cattle producers

[Mr. Ouellet.]

in Canada. If we had allowed U.S. cattle producers to dump their cattle in the Canadian market, our prices would have gone down to the level of American prices for cattle. So, in effect, our action is beneficial to Canadian cattlemen. There is still a tremendous surplus of cattle in the United States and there is no advantage to Canadians from that market at present.

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**CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

REMOVAL OF SALES TAX ON CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR—  
REQUEST FOR NAMES OF COMPANIES FAILING TO GIVE  
CONSUMERS BENEFIT

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Speaker. Having recently tabled a document on the removal of the federal sales tax on clothing and footwear which showed merely a modest decrease in the expected rise in prices, can the minister tell us whether the investigation indicated if any of the 113 retailers who were surveyed failed to pass on the tax saving to the consumers and, if so, is the minister prepared to release to the House the names of those companies?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** If the hon. member will only look into the report which was tabled in the House, Mr. Speaker, he will realize that we are satisfied with the response we have obtained from the retailers we had asked to co-operate with the department in this investigation. The names of three firms are mentioned because, during this investigation, they refused to answer our questions.

[English]

**Mr. Halliday:** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, with reference to the three names to which the minister has just alluded. Can he inform the House whether those three companies refused to answer the questionnaire because of some inherent dislike of it or whether they simply ignored the minister's request?

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** Mr. Speaker, I feel the hon. member should read this report. He would clearly realize that these firms refused to answer the questionnaire. We had contacted them on a number of occasions, trying to find out if they had special reasons for refusing to answer it. Because they refused to answer our questions, when all the others complied willingly with our request, we had to print their names in the report.

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[English]

**AGRICULTURE**

POTATOES—REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION OF FAMILY  
PARTNERSHIPS OR CORPORATE FARMS UNDER PRICE  
STABILIZATION PROGRAM

**Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the policies of the government in the past which